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| KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP P.O. Box 221200 Chantilly, VA 20153-1200 | | | EXAMINER RIGGLEMAN, JASON PAUL | |
| | | | ART UNIT 1746 | PAPER NUMBER |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,795

Applicant(s)

NO ET AL.

Examiner

Jason P. Riggleman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5,8-13 and 15-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5,8-13 and 15-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 April 2007 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☒ Other: Foreign references.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Applicant's reply filed on 4/9/2007 is acknowledged. Current pending claims are 5, 8-13, and 15-25. Claims 5 and 8-13 are amended. Claims 15-25 are new. Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 14 have been cancelled.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "62" in paragraph [0045]. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Response to Amendment

3. The objections to the drawings (in the previous office action) are withdrawn in view of the amended drawings. The objections to the claims are withdrawn in view of the amended claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 5, 13, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czech (US Patent No. 3253874) in view of the admitted state of the art, ASA, as disclosed by the applicant.

3. Czech teaches a washing machine with a cabinet 11 having and tub (not shown) provided in the cabinet (Column 1, Lines 40-63). The control panel 36 forms a receiving space with a top plate (top panel 14) of the cabinet, Figs. 2-3. The control unit is installed in the receiving space and is configured to control operation of the washing machine. The control panel is coupled to a rear portion of an upper surface of the top plate.

4. Czech does not teach a drum rotatably installed in the tub; however, the ASA teaches a general washing machine with a cabinet 2 having a tub 4 and drum 6 provided within; a drum 6 rotatably provided in the tub 4. It would have been obvious to modify Czech with the ASA to create a washing machine with a rotatable drum to achieve the desired result for washing and dehydration.

5. Czech as modified by the ASA, above, does not teach a filter case "*configured to*" have a noise filter inside to be installed in the receiving space; however, the ASA teaches the use of a filter case 22 containing a noise filter 20 which filters electrical

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noise on the wiring leading from the control panel, installed at one side of the cabinet body, Fig. 2. The noise filter is configured to prevent interference of signals carried on wires leading to and from the control unit. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Czech as modified by the ASA to create a washing machine equipped with a noise filter (to reduce electrical interference in the wiring) which is in close proximity to control panel wiring and is protected by being housed inside the control panel housing space.

6. Czech as modified by the ASA, above, does not teach a top panel coupled filter case; however, a slidably mountable (see guide protrusion 22a of ASA sliding on installation panel 2a) filter case is mounted to the cabinet body 2. It has been held that an obvious choice in design is not patentable (*In re Kuhle* 188 USPQ 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Czech as modified by the ASA, above, to create a means to slidably guide the filter case into position to be mounted with screws/bolts within the control panel housing to achieve the expected result.

7. Claims 8-12 and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czech (US Patent No. 3253874) and the ASA, as disclosed by the applicant, as applied to claim 5, above, and further in view of Johnson, IV (US Patent No. 4019298).

8. Czech as modified by the ASA does not teach the protrusion-guide rail coupling; however, Johnson teaches a coupling assembly comprising at least one guide rail (mortise 10) provided on a surface of a beam and configured to slidably receive the at

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least one coupling protrusion (tenon 2) to thereby mount to a beam perpendicular and slidably to a surface (the top plate of the washing machine in receiving space). A forward end of the at least one guide rail is blocked (tenon width widens) so as to restrict forward movement of the at least one coupling protrusion inserted therein. The at least one coupling protrusion extends outward from body protrusion (neck of tenon) and laterally along a bottom surface, opposite bottom side edges (see shape of tenon in relation to beam in Fig. 1) from a central portion of the beam. It would have been obvious to modify Czech as modified by the ASA with Johnson, IV, to create a means to couple the noise filter in a tighten-sliding way (side-sliding or center-type are obvious variants) which quickly and securely fastens the noise filter to prevent detachment during vibration.

9. Claims 17 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czech (US Patent No. 3253874) and the ASA, as disclosed by the applicant, as applied to claims 5 and 19, above, in view of Kwon et al. (Korean Applicant Publication No. KR2003-0071985).

10. Czech as modified by the ASA does not teach a coupling boss extending rearwards from an upper surface of the filter case and a coupling hole in the back panel. Kwon et al. teaches a back panel which has a coupling boss (B) extending forwards from an upper surface of the filter case 62 and a coupling hole configured to receive the screw S to connect to the coupling boss (coupling boss is received by hole) when the filter case 62 is coupled to the panel of the housing, see English machine translation of Korean specification. It would have been obvious to modify Czech as modified by the

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ASA with Kwon et al. to provide further means to secure the noise filter in place – during vibration or otherwise.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Onizuka et al. (US Patent No. 6147928) teaches a noise filter with attachment means to a cabinet. Oberst (US Patent No. 4389133) teaches a connector similar to the side-sliding coupling of the noise filter of the present invention. Ferreira et al. (US 5244300) teaches a mortise-tenon type coupling which could be used to connect a box (noise filter housing) to the control panel.

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Riggleman whose telephone number is 571-272-5935. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason P Riggleman
Examiner
Art Unit 1746

JPR


MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER